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EXAMINER

ABRAMS, NEIL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 07/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/820918

Applicant(s)

Examiner

N. Abrams

Group Art Unit

2839

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- ☒ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☒ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 ☐ Other _____

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The disclosure is objected to as unclear under 37 CFR 1.71.

Spec. Page 6, lines 28-30 refer to "socket terminals for---together" however these are not seen in the figure ~~a~~^{or} designated by numeral. Also just what is meant is unclear.

Fig 9 must be labeled "Prior Art". Page 6, line 24 "50a" is not seen in the figs.

Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claim 1, references to "connecting terminals" and "opposed to the substrate" are unclear and do not seem readable on any features of figs 3, 4. Claims 2, 6 features also lacks basis in spec. And just what is referred to is unclear. Claim 2, line 3 seems incorrect. For figs 3, 4, description, no "conductors" or terminals" are mentioned. For claim 7, the recited features "upper surface" "lower surface", "inclined wall", "stepped connecting wall" are all unclear since not designated by numeral in figs 3, 4. No "stepped connecting wall" is mentioned, nor is one seen in the figs. Claims 8, 12 features lack clear basis in disclosure as in case of claims 2, 6 and are not understood.

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Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 12 are found unclear as stated and also for reasons that may relate to inadequate disclosure as noted above. Claim 1 "and being disposed" as used is unclear.

In addition just what "substrate" refers to is unclear. It seem, in claim 1 and spec, to be used for the drawer like structures that receive the relays. In claim 4, line 3, substrate seems to refer to a "floor" on which a relay is mounted. Clarification in remarks or correction is required. Claim 7, lines 4-6 seem unclear, they should be reviewed and modified as necessary.

Claim 11 is unclear, it seems to confusingly change ^{"inclined wall" to} "inclined surface" and also to doubly recite the feature.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 12 features, discussed above must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claims 1-4 and 6 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Unemoto in view of Shinochi and Okada.


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Umemoto fig 1 shows a component box with parts 22, 22 read as stepped substrates having openings, in line for receiving components. The components are not shown fitted into the substrates. Obvious that they would fit into the openings in manner shown by Shimochi, fig 2 at 26, 25 and Okada fig 4 at 6 and fig 2 at 28, 116. This would provide support for the components (fuses). The recited component terminals would be like that of Shimochi at 28. For claim 3, Umemoto part at 26, 32 forms a third substrate. Note that claim 3 does not require the third substrate to receive components. For claim 4, Umemoto discloses use of relays. For claims 2, 6, the substrates of Umemoto include terminals, conductors as shown at 36, 34. In addition, obvious to use types shown by Shimochi at 17, 5. This would facilitate assembly of the box.

Claims 1, 2, 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kourimsky.

Note fig 10, stepped substrates that receive components parts 53 that include terminals 55. The components are not shown in line on each substrate. The use of openings in line for components is shown in fig. 5 at 37. Obvious to use these in fig 10 for increased circuit connections. Claims 2, 6 met by such combination. Claim 3, obvious to include "three" stepped substrates for increased circuit inputs.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to N. Abrams at telephone number (703) 308-1729.


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EXAMINER
ART UNIT 322